

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Lead (Pb) Poisoning Working Group

Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 14h30
NCE Boardroom, 20 Nachtigal Street, Ausspannplatz area

Participants

MEFT: Kenneth /Uiseb (K/U), Janine Sharpe (JS, Veterinarian – via Zoom)
UNAM: Lorinda Hart (LH, Biological Sciences – via Zoom), Mark Jago (MJ, Veterinary School)
NNF: Angus Middleton (AM)
NAPHA: Danene van der Westhuyzen (DvdW)
NCE: Chris Brown (CB)

Apologies

Holger Kolberg (MEFT), Ortwin Aschenborn (UNAM Veterinary School)

Agenda item	Actions
<p>1. Welcome Kenneth welcomed everyone. Agreed that he would lead this first meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies Noted.</p>	
<p>3. Previous Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correctness: accepted - Matters arising: all matters covered by Agenda 	
<p>4. Incentivising the transition of hunting and wildlife sector to lead-free ammunition</p> <p>a. Information on the negative impacts of lead ammunition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog: done https://conservationnamibia.com/blog/b2021-unleaded-please.php and shared via Facebook and NAPHA and CANAM newsletter. This article will also be printed in the Agra RING newsletter that reaches about 7,000 farmers (after four articles on climate change). • SA Lead Task Team social media posts: the first post was circulated via NCE Facebook (3 Sept 2021) and widely shares across other platforms. Will continue to share info from SA LTT. • Share info with farmers, hunters, arms dealers, etc. Giving presentation at NAPHA AGM in December. Then need to develop a communications plan. <p>b. Information on lead-free alternatives (including German calibre firearms) – Most common locally-used calibres noted (see also point c. below). German calibres, where hunters bring in their own firearms – they should be required to bring in their own non-lead ammunition.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>Ian Rushworth to send posts</p> <p>All CB</p> <p>NAPHA</p>

<p>c. Testing of lead-free ammunition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of hunters to test non-lead ammo compiled • List of different non-lead ammo required compiled • Order for the above ammo placed with firearms and ammunitions dealer – to be purchased from Badger and imported from RSA. Awaiting delivery <p>d. Presentations at NAPHA AGM (1 December 2021)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation given. Good response from members – support to move ahead <p>e. Engage with Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) on environmental levy on lead ammunition. Meeting held with CEO of EIF and team, K/U and CB. Very positive response. Need to proceed to a formal report.</p> <p>f. Engage with wildlife meat markets on issue of human health and their purchase of meats harvested only using lead-free ammunition. Await responses from lead research on vultures and carnivores. Then carry out a study on game meat in supermarkets. Thereafter engage with sector.</p> <p>g. MEFT to change to lead-free ammunition – lead by example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that management levels in MEFT are well informed of this initiative and support it. <p>h. Other – carry over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could make it a condition of all hunting concessions in communal conservancies and national parks that only lead-free ammo is used. • Freehold conservancies could consider “lead-free” certification. 	<p>NAPHA</p> <p>CB</p> <p>WG</p> <p>All</p>
<p>5. Monitoring / research (which should not act as a handbrake to the above)</p> <p>a. Monitor levels of lead in the blood of wild-captured vultures (including nestlings) – visited 2 farms when vulture ringing, for mainly WbV – blood and feathers, also Namib for LfV blood and feathers. Analysis to be explored.</p> <p>b. Monitor levels of lead in bones of dead wild vultures and selected carnivores (hyaena, lion, jackal) – call to be put out to hunters, farmers, NGOs, MEFT for long bones. Data form to be designed by student. Analysis to be explored.</p> <p>c. Monitor levels of lead in skimmers, farm staff and hunters on a voluntary basis - engage with Ministry of Health / UNAM Medical School – not an immediate priority – wait to see results from vulture and carnivore work</p>	<p>HK, LH, ringers & Elizabeth Shilunga (student)</p> <p>MJ and student</p>

<p>d. Survey of arms dealers in terms of types of ammo sold – lead versus lead-free and change over time in different calibres.</p> <p>6. Institutional arrangements Wildlife Lead Poisoning Working Group has been formally approved by MEFT senior management and from this point on can operate at such. Confirmation of the following positions: Chairperson – Kenneth /Uiseb MEFT Vice-Chair – Lorinda Hart (UNAM) Secretariate – Chris Brown and NCE</p> <p>7. Close meeting There being no further business, all participants were thanked for their attendance and active participation and the meeting was closed at 16h35.</p>	<p>NUST?</p>
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